

Diane has a gift for negotiating. I have watched her push my position as far as she could and then a little further, her demeanor always pleasant, her counter proposals always workable, her objections irrefutable. She won the respect and friendship of staff across party and ideological lines. I will truly miss her bargaining skills.

Diane is able to translate complicated issues into language comprehensible to her boss and to constituents. I receive many kudos for letters Diane has written that are clear and directly responsive to the concerns of individual district residents, and not just "thank you for your interest" letters and she has prepared me for meetings on issues that would otherwise be too "high tech" for me.

On top of all that, Diane has been a leader in the office, providing help to her co-workers in the office in many different ways. Kevin (though officially one of the beautiful people on Capitol Hill and quite slim) has an astonishing capacity for food. Diane affectionately calls him the "human garbage disposal" (in a good way), yet still treats him and the rest of the office with her wonderful baked goods, lemon bars being a specialty.

Our chief of staff especially appreciated Diane's magic with naming bills. Her favorite: the Stop Attempted Fraud against Everyone's Cell and Land Line—a bill title that is instantly forgettable until you realize the acronym is the SAFE CALL ACT.

Megan described what Diane has meant not only to her but to other staff members. "Diane has always been an excellent mentor to me, teaching me how to make the most of contacts and pointing me toward good legislative ideas." She also mentioned what we all know: Diane is an excellent punster.

Diane is leaving us now, soon to be embracing a new role in her life—that of Mom. Hearing the good news, everyone in the office wanted to help Diane and her husband Adrian by suggesting some really great baby names. Peter, a new father himself and Diane's "work husband," brought in baby naming books. We had a Name the Baby list put up with interesting ideas such as Noble Eagle, Sparky and Porterhouse, and some more suitable boy names including Mason, Lucas, Oliver, Cooper, Oscar, Lucca, Gideon and Felix. Disregarding our suggestions in total, they chose Franklin.

We all look forward to many visits from Diane, Adrian, Baby Franklin and Suki the dog, who we will also miss very much. All of us love Diane very much, thank her for her service and wish her and her growing family the best of everything.

RECOGNIZING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEIMAN MARCUS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Neiman Marcus as it celebrates its 100-year anniversary.

The founders—Herbert Marcus, his sister, Carrie Marcus Neiman, and her husband, A.L. Neiman—were all under age 30 when they created the luxury retailer. They opened its

flagship store in downtown Dallas, TX, on this day in 1907.

Over the last century, Neiman Marcus has not only left an indelible mark on the Dallas culture and society, but continues to play a vital role in the business community.

For over 19 years, Neiman Marcus has hosted the annual Neiman Marcus Adolphus Children's Parade benefiting the Child Life Program at Children's Medical Center, Dallas. This event raises money for its specialized programs including music therapy, support groups, medical camps and bedside activities. It draws crowds of over 300,000 and it brings hope and happiness to families across the country during the holiday season.

With a long history of supporting the arts, Neiman Marcus continues this tradition by sustaining the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts and the Dallas Arts District, helping to establish Dallas as a renowned center for performing and visual arts.

Expanding from its original store in historic downtown Dallas, Neiman Marcus now operates nationwide with total store operations of over 5 million gross square feet, providing economic growth and secure jobs across the country and for the north Texas region.

With a true sense of philanthropy and generosity, Neiman Marcus has become more than a retail company; its company culture reflects the true spirit of community. On behalf of the 30th Congressional District of Texas, please join me in congratulating Neiman Marcus Group on the occasion of its 100th year anniversary.

OUR STRONG ALLY AUSTRALIA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Australia for their continued commitment to the global war on terrorism and to recognize our long and proud history of working together to promote democracy and freedom around the world. Australia is the only country to have fought beside us in every major conflict of the 20th and 21st centuries.

President Bush and Prime Minister John Howard reaffirmed our friendship last week by signing a defense trade cooperation treaty. As a partner in the fight against terrorism, Australia has committed troops and resources to assist our Armed Forces around the world. They have deployed 1,500 troops in Iraq and 970 in Afghanistan.

While our friendship and partnership extends well beyond defense, it is comforting and reassuring to have such a dedicated ally who understands that we must stop our enemies in Iraq and Afghanistan to protect American and Australian families and all those who share the values of freedom and democracy around the world.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTION DIGITAL AND WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 694, the Minority Serving Institution Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity Act of 2007, and I would start by thanking House Science Committee Chairman BART GORDON and Ranking Member RALPH HALL for their work to pass this bill. Additionally, Representative ED TOWNS has been a tireless advocate in moving this bill forward and it has been a pleasure working with him to pass this legislation.

This bill would establish a new grant program to provide funding of specific technologies to help ensure institutions like historically Black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, and tribal colleges have the tools necessary to prepare their students to engage and participate in the increasingly global and competitive economy.

Now, more than ever, we are seeing other countries become increasingly competitive with the United States, with science and math scores equaling or exceeding average scores for American students.

Additionally, another example of the nature of the problem we face globally can be seen in the engineering field. By 2008, India is expected to increase to a little over 700,000 young engineering professionals and China is expected to increase to 2.1 million. Conversely, the U.S. is predicated to stay stagnant at 700,000 engineering young professionals by 2008 and other fields like life sciences are declining. This is a trend that cannot be allowed to continue if the United States wants to maintain its leadership role in the future global economy and graduate students that have the capacity to be this world's best and brightest.

One of the realities that we need to address in order to ensure this happens is to make sure all populations in this country have access to basic technologies, something that is currently not the case for all segments of the American population. Although 55 percent of the U.S. population has internet access at home overall, only 36 percent of African-American and Hispanic households do, according to a U.S. Census report issued in October 2005.

This bill would work to eliminate this "digital divide" by establishing a new grant program within the Department of Commerce to strengthen the ability of minority-serving institutions to purchase infrastructure and provide technology education services, providing students with the same access to technology as their peers at other colleges and universities.

This legislation is about even more than just equality in education; it is about economic advancement and ensuring that America retains its edge in the math, science and technology fields—a critically important requirement in today's global economy.